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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2015, at 2 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, inspire our lawmakers to give You their best. Striving to serve You and country, may they refuse to bring You the leftovers of their time, talents, and trust. Inspired by Your providential movements in our world, help them to raise the bar of their expectations. Remind them that You can accomplish through them more than they can ask or imagine.

Lord, today we pay tribute to all American veterans, living or dead. We praise You for the gift of people who are willing to serve their country honorably during times of war and peace. Inspired by their exemplary lives, grant to us all a new dimension of compassion, courage, and competence. Use us to touch Your world and leave it better than we found it.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the MILCON-VA appropriations bill. Several amendments were agreed to yesterday, and we expect more to be considered before we complete action on the bill. Senator KIRK and Senator TESTER expect to wrap up consideration today, so any Senators with amendments to the bill should be talking to the two managers.

We will have a rollcall vote on the NDAA at approximately 11:20 a.m., and I hope to vote on passage of the MILCON-VA appropriations bill shortly thereafter.

If we complete action on NDAA, MILCON-VA, and send the long-term highway bill to conference later today, that will allow the Senate to adjourn for the Veterans Day holiday.

COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY AND PASSING LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS AND TROOPS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, like many of my colleagues, I plan to commemorate Veterans Day with the people I am honored to represent here in the Senate. I will join Kentuckians at a ceremony in Shelbyville's Vet-

erans Memorial Park. Hands will be put to heart as the "Star Spangled Banner" is played. Heads will bow in reverence as 106 names are read aloud, each a Kentuckian who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of others, and each a reminder of our enduring debt to America's men and women in uniform.

I am proud to represent the nearly 330,000 Kentuckians who have served in the Armed Forces. I am also proud to represent the many thousands of soldiers and their families who reside in or hail from our great Commonwealth, whether at Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, the Blue Grass Army Depot, or beyond.

I recently had a chance to meet some of Kentucky's brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who currently serve in Afghanistan and Iraq. Sadly, a NATO helicopter had just crashed in Kabul, killing five people, including two American servicemembers. I was honored to take part in a prayer service led by a chaplain from Lexington, KY, and I note that the occupant of the Chair was with me at the time.

What an incredibly humbling moment it was. The tragic crash is a stark reminder of the incredible danger our service men and women face every day, and a stark reminder of what all Americans owe them.

Veterans should know that they have many champions fighting for them here in the Senate. One of them is Senator ISAKSON, the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Under his leadership, the committee has actively sought to do right by the men and women who never hesitate to do right

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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